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Message Text

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67
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
COMNAVBASE GTMO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 0348

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: SACKED MINISTER ATTACKS MANLEY GOVERNMENT

REF: KINGSTON 0260 (NOTAL)

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: ALLAN ISAACS, WHO WAS SACKED FROM THE CABINET LAST WEEK (REFTEL), HAS ISSUED A BLISTERING 7 PAGE ATTACK ON THE MANLEY GOVERNMENT CHARGING THE PRIME MINISTER WITH FOSTERING A CULT OF PERSONALITY AND LEADING THE COUNTRY INTO A CUBAN MODEL OF SOCIALISM. ISAACS HAS REFUSED TO RESIGN HIS SEAT IN PARLIAMENT AND PLEDGES TO CONTINUE TO SPEAK AND ACT IN THE INTERESTS OF THE NATION.

2. ISAACS ASSERTED IN HIS RELEASE THAT "THE RISING ASCENDENCY OF THE PARTY OVER THE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT INCLUDING PARLIAMENT ITSELF, BECOMES EVIDENT IN A PARTY CONDUCTED ON THE PRACTICE OF LEADER WORSHIP", ADDING THAT THE PRESENT CABINET "IS NO LONGER THE REAL POLICY-MAKING BODY OF GOVERNMENT...." HE SAID UNELECTED PARTY OFFICIALS HAD A GREATER VOICE IN GOVERNMENT POLICY THAN THOSE ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE AND THEY WERE COMMITTED TO THE EVENTUAL GOAL OF ESTABLISHING THE CUBAN MODEL OF
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SOCIALISM IN JAMAICA.

3. THE PRESS WAS TO BE REGIMENTED. VIOLENCE WAS BECOMING A TOOL FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF RESISTANCE, CRITICISM AND DISSENT, AND ALL THIS WAS BEING BUILT UP TO A CRESCENDO FOR THE VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO TO JAMAICA ON LABOR DAY (MAY 24) THIS YEAR.

4. ISAACS DSCRIBED THE POLICIES OF THE PRESENT LEADERS OF THE PNP AS "THOSE OF DIVISION AND HATE IN WHICH THE MIDDLE CLASS IS APPARENTLY TO BE LIQUIDATED WHEN THE RIGHT TIME COMES AND RACE AND COLOR WILL DETERMINE THE LINE OF BATTLE."

4. PM MANLEY HAS DECLINED COMMENT ON THE ISAAC STATEMENT PENDING A MEETING OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE PNP SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, TO DISCUSS THE MATTER.

5. COMMENT: PM MANLEY MIGHT NOT BE COMMENTING ON ISAAC'S STATEMENT BUT IT SEEMS LIKE EVERY OTHER PERSON IN JAMAICA IS. IT WAS A BOMBSHELL. THE DAILY NEWS BANNERED THE STORY WITH A RED INK HEADLINE "PLAN FOR RED TAKEOVER HERE".

6. BY ARTICULATING THE LONG-STANDING FEARS OF THE JAMAICAN MIDDLE CLASS, ISAACS HAS CONFIRMED THE WORST IN THEIR MINDS, AND TRIGGERED A SPATE OF FRANTIC RUMORS. THE JLP OPPOSITION IS TAKING THE LINE, "WE TOLD YOU SO. WIL YOU NOW BELIEVE IT FROM THE VERY LIPS OF A PNP MINISTER?".

7. PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN PM MANLEY'S LEADERSHIP CLEARLY IS AT AN ALL-TIME LOW. NOTHING SHORT OF A REIGNING IN OF THE RADICAL LEFT IN HIS PARTY, AS REPRESENTED BY DUNCAN AND BERTRAM, IS GOING TO CALM THE SITUATION. THE EMBASSY QUESTIONS WHETHER HE HAS THE WILL OR THE POWER TO DO SO.
GERARD

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GEORGETOWN
MULTIPLE
PORT OF SPAIN
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